

REMARKS

By the present amendment product claims 1 to 4 and 10 are under consideration in the application.

Support For Claim Amendments

In claim 1, the limitation --wherein an effective amount of solid solution C is present in said hot-rolled welded steel sheet to achieve excellent softening resistance at the weld heat affected zone--. This claim limitation is supported by the first two (2) lines of claim, 1 and the specification, e.g., at page 7, lines 24 to 32.

The Office Action at page 4, paragraph 11 recommended adding the above claim limitation to claim 1 to distinguish the claims over JP '957.

Claims 1, 2 and 10 have been amended to change "+12/14N" to -- -12/14N--. This amendment is supported by claims 1 and 2 as originally filed and throughout the specification.

Restriction Requirement

Withdrawn, non-elected, method claims 5 to 9 have been cancelled by the present amendment without prejudice to the filing of a divisional patent application directed to the subject matter of method claims 5 to 9.

Specification

The specification was objected to because " -12/14N " needed to be changed to -- +12/14N--.

By the present amendment claim 1, 2 and 10 have been amended to change " +12/14N " to read -- -12/14N --.

In view of the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

§103

Claims 1 to 4 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan No. 8-157957 (referred to in the Office Action as 408157957).

This rejection, as applied to the amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

Patentability

The Office Action at page 4, paragraph 11 recommended to add the limitation --wherein an effective amount of solid solution C is present in said hot-rolled welded steel sheet to achieve excellent softening resistance at the weld heat affected zone-- in order to distinguish the claims over JP '957.

By the present amendment, the above limitation has been added to independent claim 1, as recommended by the Office Action, to patentably distinguish independent claim 1, and claims 2 to 4 and 10 dependent on claim 1, over cited Japan No. 8-157957.

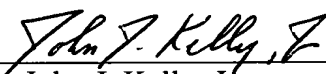
It is therefore submitted that amended independent claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, are patentable over Japan No. 8-157957.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that in view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed and passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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